

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces any and all prior claim lists.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (withdrawn)

Claim 18 (currently amended). A method for producing carbonated water comprising steps of: supplying water and carbon dioxide gas to a first carbon dioxide gas dissolver; and supplying obtained carbonated water to a second carbon dioxide gas dissolver in line with said first carbon dioxide gas dissolver.

Claim 19 (withdrawn). The method for producing carbonated water according to claim 18, wherein water is passed through the first carbon dioxide gas dissolver by single-pass.

Claim 20 (original). The method for producing carbonated water according to claim 18, wherein water is circulated through the first carbon dioxide gas dissolver.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method for producing carbonated water according to claim 18, wherein carbon dioxide gas is supplied to only the first carbon dioxide gas dissolver.

Claim 22 (previously presented). The method for producing carbonated water according to claim 18, wherein the first carbon dioxide gas dissolver includes a membrane module.

Claim 23 (previously presented). The method for producing carbonated water according to claim 22, wherein the membrane module contains a hollow fiber membrane.

Claim 24 (original). The method for producing carbonated water according to claim 23, wherein the hollow fiber membrane is a three-layer composite hollow fiber membrane in which both faces of a thin non-porous gas permeation layer are sandwiched by porous layers.

Claim 25 (previously presented). The method for producing carbonated water according to claims 18, wherein the second carbon dioxide gas dissolver is comprised of a static mixer.

Claim 26 (original). The method for producing carbonated water according to claim 25, wherein the static mixer is a stator type and/or a Kenics type.

Claim 27 (previously presented). The method for producing carbonated water according to claim 25, wherein a number of elements in the static mixer is 5 to 100.

Claim 28 (previously presented). The method for producing carbonated water according to claim 25, wherein an element diameter of the static mixer is 5 to 100 mm.

Claim 29 (currently amended). The method for producing carbonated water according to ~~any one of~~ claim 18, wherein carbon dioxide gas is supplied to the first carbon dioxide gas dissolver at a specified constant flow rate.

Claim 30 (currently amended). The method for producing carbonated water according to claim 18, wherein water is supplied to the first carbon dioxide gas dissolver at a specified constant flow rate.

Claim 31 (previously presented). The method for producing carbonated water according to claim 18, wherein a pressure increasing pump is disposed in an upstream of the first carbon dioxide gas dissolver and water pressurized by the pressure increasing pump is supplied to the first carbon dioxide gas dissolver.

Claim 32 (original). The method for producing carbonated water according to claim 31, wherein a flow switch is disposed in a line, through which water or carbonated water passes, and the pressure increasing pump is driven only when water or carbonated water exists in the line.

Claim 33 (currently amended). The method for producing carbonated water according to claim 18, wherein said method includes setting the temperature of generated carbonated water is in a range of 30 to 45°C.

Claim 34 (currently amended). The method for producing carbonated water according to claims 18, wherein said method includes setting the concentration of free carbon dioxide in the generated carbonated water is in a range of 800 to 1500 mg/L